(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) A Memorandum has been received from Shri M. Vijayakumar, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala on 18.6.2009. One of the items in the Memorandum is regarding construction of new railway station at Nedumbassery to provide connectivity to the International airport at Nedumbassery. The matter is under examination.

Increasing number of cancer patients

*498. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of new cancer patients is increasing by one lakh annually;

(b) whether Government has conducted any survey to find out the reasons for the increasing number of cancer patients in the country, particularly food pipe/breast cancer amongst women;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the strategies to be adopted to make Government hospitals/health centres equipped to handle such cases, free of cost; and

(e) the fiscal allocation made to combat increasing number of cancer cases for the last three years till the current year?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) Health being a state subject, such information is not centrally maintained. However, according to the population based cancer registries under the National Cancer Registry Program of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there are about nine lakhs new cancer cases occurring every year in the country. Further, the estimated annual increase in the incidence of new cancer cases is about 17000. There are several factors in the causation of these cancers but the exact reasons are still not known clearly.

Central Government has evolved a comprehensive cancer control strategy *i.e.* National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) where emphasis has been laid down on awareness, prevention, early detection and treatment. The Central Government is also supplementing the efforts of the State Government is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up of Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical colleges/Hospitals for providing treatment facilities. Diagnosis and treatment of cancer is available in the health care delivery system at various levels in Districts Hospitals, Medical Colleges and tertiary apex centers. There are 27 Regional Cancer Centres for comprehensive

care management in the country. The treatment of cancer is either free or subsidized in the Government institutions. The Government has set up the "Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund" (CPF) to provide financial assistance to Below Poverty Line (BPL) Cancer patients for treatment of this chronic disease.

The fund allocation for the National Cancer Control Program pertaining to last three years is as under:-

Year	Allocation (Rs. in Crores)
2007-08	110.00
2008-09	105.00
2009-10	120.00

Curtailment in budgetary allocation for health schemes

†*499. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made curtailment in health budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of health-schemes in respect of which budget has been curtailed; and

(d) whether Government has made an assessment of the effects of curtailment in health budget on human resource development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) no curtailment has been made in the health budget. Rather, there is a steady increase in the allocation for the entire health sector over the years as given below:-

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
2006-07	11688.00	1322.55	13010.55
2007-08	14363.00	1491.88	15854.88
2008-09	16534.00	1589.00	18123.00
2009-10	19534.00	3107.33	22641.33

Difference between consumer purchase price and producers' selling price

†*500. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.